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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
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Agenda item 3

CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY (AGENDA 21, CHAPS. 2-5)

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Information provided by Governments and organizations

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development noted with appreciation the receipt of information from 74 States and 11 organizations. It welcomed the country presentations on coastal area management and national sustainable development strategies.

2. The Commission welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat in trying to simplify the guidelines for the 1996 session which had facilitated the provision of information on national and other relevant experience in implementing Agenda 21, and the summary report on that information.

3. The Commission requested relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system, as well as donors, to consider favourably requests for the provision of technical and financial assistance to help developing countries with the preparation of national strategies for sustainable development, national Agenda 21 action plans and periodic communications and reports on these activities to the Commission. The Commission noted with appreciation the intention of several donors and organizations to favourably consider such requests.

4. The Commission welcomes and supports the preparation of country profiles by the Secretariat for the 1997 special session of the General Assembly, as envisaged in Assembly resolution 50/113. These country profiles, to be prepared in close cooperation with the Governments concerned, and based on voluntary information submitted by these Governments, will provide a concise presentation of progress made and constraints encountered in implementing Agenda 21 at the

national level. In this context, the Commission appeals to countries to provide information and to cooperate with the Secretariat on this matter.

5. The Commission requests the Secretariat to consult members at an appropriate time on proposals for reporting to future sessions, taking into account, among other elements, the work on indicators for sustainable development.

6. The Commission noted that, in this period following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, States are being confronted with a growing number of reporting requirements in the field of sustainable development. In order to reduce duplication of work, the Commission requests the Secretary-General to provide, in cooperation with interested States, the Commission at its fifth session with proposals for streamlining national reporting in the field of sustainable development. The country profiles could be the initial step towards streamlining reporting requirements.